

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-23 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled. Claim 15 has been allowed.

The Specification was objected to because various subsections were not labeled. Although such labeling is only suggested as a guideline and not required, Applicant has inserted subsection titles in the appropriate locations in the specification. Accordingly, Applicant believes this objection has been overcome.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that claim 15 is allowed and that claims 2-14 and 16-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of canceled allowable claim 2 and should therefore be allowed. As claims 3-13 depend from amended claim 1, Applicant believes these claims

should also now be allowed. Further, Applicant believes claims 16-23 should already be allowed since they depend from allowed claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 1, 3-13, and 15-23 (all of the remaining claims) are now in condition for allowance.

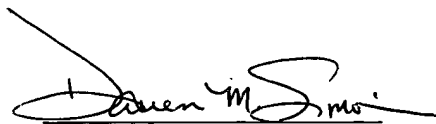
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800